

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, paragraph [0016].

Paragraph [0018] has been amended to correct a typographical error in the cited Japanese patent document. See also the IDS filed February 21, 2006.

I. The Rejection Based on Mori

Claims 1, 3-8, and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mori (Japanese Patent Application Publication Number 10-170921).

Claims 2, 10, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mori in view of Schadt (WO 99/64924).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mori in view of Sudo, et al. (United States Patent 4,437,731, hereafter Sudo).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Mori, alone or in view of Schadt or Sudo, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections in view of the following remarks.

The present invention and Mori both refer to a method for producing an anisotropic film, and that the method includes a step disposing a film containing a photoreactive material on a polarizing element; and irradiating the film containing the photoreactive material with light, through the polarizing element so as to provide an anisotropy to the film containing the photoreactive material. However, the photoreactive material in the present invention denotes a

material isomerized by light or a material dimerized/polymerized by light. In Mori, the photoreactive material denotes a material based on polyacrylate, polyvinyl, amide, imide; a silane compound or polysilane compound (see Mori [0009 and the Abstract]). The polyacrylate based material, the polyvinyl-based material and the polysilane compound will not be dimerized/polymerized by light, as these compounds have been polymerized. The materials based on polyacrylate, polyvinyl, amide, imide, the silane compound and the polysilane compound are also not isomerized by light. In conclusion, the photoreactive material in the present invention and the photoreactive material in Mori are clearly patentably distinct from each other; and thus the present invention is not obvious from Mori.

The secondary references, Schadt and Sudo, do not overcome the deficiencies in the primary reference discussed above.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-20 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of Mori, alone or in view of Schadt or Sudo, and it is requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

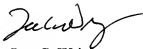
Application No.: 10/557,837
Art Unit: 1792

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 053078

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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